

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An image scanner has a calibration strip, preferably the full width of the scanline, that is visible to a photosensor array continuously during a scan. For example, the calibration strip may be on a moving carriage. At least one separate array of photosensors is used to continuously monitor the intensity, and optionally color, of the illumination, along the calibration strip, during a scan. If color is monitored, preferably separate compensation is provided for every color. As a result, scanning can start as soon as the lamp provides sufficient light for scanning, without waiting for the lamp to stabilize.